

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 34 through 54 and 57 through 64 are pending in this application. Claims 55 and 56 have been cancelled.

The Office Action rejects claims 34 through 64 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sheehy (U.S. Patent No. 5,653,732). This rejection is moot as to claims 55 and 56, which have been cancelled. Sheehy fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claims 34 through 54 and 57 through 64.

The Office Action asserts that proximal end 42 of the Sheehy stem 48 has opposing sides that are "inwardly concave" when viewed in a front view, as in claim 34. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion. The proximal end of the Sheehy stem shows the direct opposite of opposing sides that are "inwardly concave" when viewed in a front view. The Sheehy stem's proximal end is curved outwardly, i.e., is a peak, as opposed to the proximal end of the stem of claim 34 that has opposing sides with "inwardly concave" shapes when viewed in a front view. Reference to Figs. 7 and 8 of the applicant's drawings, as compared to Fig. 4 of Sheehy, makes this distinction clear.

Claims 35 through 44 depend from claim 34 and, thus, are also not anticipated by Sheehy.

Independent claim 45 has the nipple having only one edge, which is an annular edge disposed between the areola region and the bulbous region. In contrast, Sheehy has three distinct annular ridges (46, 44, 40) disposed between each of the curved upper segment 42, the curved intermediate segment 38 and the

curved lower segment 36, respectively.

Claims 46 through 54 depend from claim 45 and, thus, are also not anticipated by Sheehy.

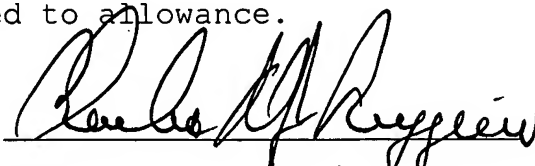
Independent claim 57 has the areola region and the proximal end of the stem being connected to form an inwardly smooth concave surface. It is clear from the front or side view of Fig. 4 of Sheehy, that the proximal end of the Sheehy stem and the upper segment 42 are separated by an outwardly extending third annular ridge 46, and do not form an "inwardly smooth concave surface" as in claim 57.

Claims 58 through 64 depend from claim 57 and, thus, are also not anticipated by Sheehy.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all claims present in this application are patentable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims. Also, applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to allowance.

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